

Canada
. and .
The Union Jack





CANADA
AND
THE UNION JACK



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"O CANADA"

O Canada, our heritage, our love,
Thy worth we praise, all other lands above.
From sea to sea, throughout thy length, from pole
to borderland,
At Britain's side, whate'er betide, unflinchingly we'll
stand.
With heart we sing, "God Save the King,"
"Guide Thou the Empire wide," do we implore,
"And prosper Canada from shore to shore."

*The above verse as adopted by The Canadian Club of Vancouver
at their Club functions was arranged by the late Brigadier General
Laurence Buchan, C.F.O., C.M.G., A.D.C., of Montreal.*



CANADA

AND

THE UNION JACK

CANADIANS can never fully appreciate the value of their great heritage consequent upon the momentous event of 1759, when Wolfe and his brave followers scaled the heights and the heroic General died victorious on the Plains of Abraham, and when Canada, now extending from ocean to ocean, came under the British Flag. Citizens of no country on earth have greater reason to be proud of their flag than those of the Dominion of Canada, a nation within the great British empire, enjoying the greatest freedom under good constitutional government, regarding which Sheridan said long years ago : "The King is not seated on a solitary eminence of power, but on the contrary sees his equals in the co-existing branches of the legislature and recognizes his superior in the law."

CANADA, as an integral part of the British Empire, honors the Union Jack. Canadians do not desire to see it flaunted idly before the public on all occasions though they consider that it should be more freely displayed than it is at present, so that we may feel the power of its presence and demonstrate to citizens of other nations the natural pride justly manifested in its presence and protection, as beautifully described in the following lines :—

“And whose was the flag? and whose was the soil?
And whose was the exile, the suffering, the toil?
Our fathers! who carved in the forest a name,
And left us rich heirs of their freedom and fame.
O, dear to our hearts is that flag, and the land
Our fathers bequeathed—’tis the work of their hand!
And the soil they redeemed from the woods with renown,
The might of their sons will defend for the crown.”

—From “Tecumseh,” by Charles Muir

VARIOUS flags have been adopted and are in use in the British Empire, principal among which are the *Royal Standard*, bearing the arms of England, Scotland and Ireland, only raised in the presence of royalty. The *Union Jack*, in its simple historical beauty, and the various modifications of it, such as the *White Ensign*, only in use by the Royal navy; the *Blue Ensign*, in use by the Royal Navy Reserve, and by permission used by some of the leading yacht clubs; and the *Red Ensign*, in use in the merchant marine service and, with the Arms of Canada on the

field, adopted as the Canadian flag for that service, and also as the citizens' flag of Canada; but the Union Jack is the basis of the Red, White and Blue Ensigns, being always in the upper quarter next the staff when the flag is flying.

THE following familiar verses have been appropriately written :--

"It's only a small piece of bunting,
It's only an old colored rag,
Yet thousands have died for its honor
And shed their best blood for the flag.

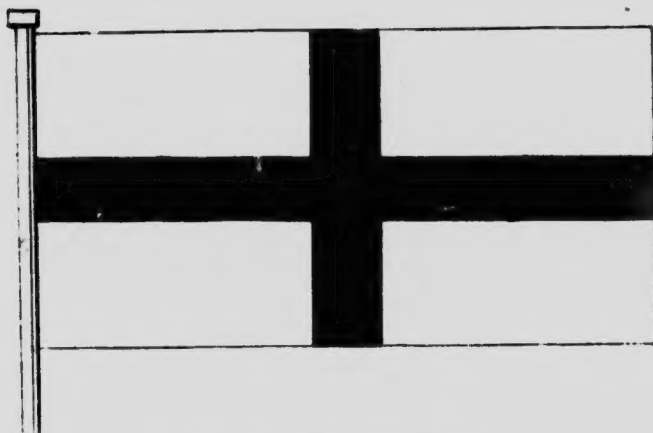
It's charged with the cross of St. Andrew,
Which of old Scotland's heroes had led ;
It carries the cross of St. Patrick,
For which Ireland's bravest have bled.

Joined to these is our English Ensign,
St. George's Red Cross on white field,
Round which, from King Richard to Wolseley,
Britons conquer or die, but ne'er yield."

MANY excellent books and pamphlets have been written on the subject of the flag, notably the work of Mr. Barlow Cumberland, B.A.,—"A History of the Union Jack and Flags of the Empire,"—a beautifully illustrated book of three hundred pages.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many publications, there appears to be a lack of knowledge in regard to the history and construction of the Union Jack, and this is the apology for the distribution of this pamphlet under the auspices of the Committee of the Vancouver Canadian Club.

It should be almost universally known that the flag of England consisted of a plain, red, oblong cross, *St. George*, on a white field, thus :—



ENGLISH JACK. ST. GEORGE'S CROSS.

which was their flag till the union with Scotland in 1707, when the Scotch flag, consisting of a diagonal white cross, *St. Andrew*, on a blue field, thus :—



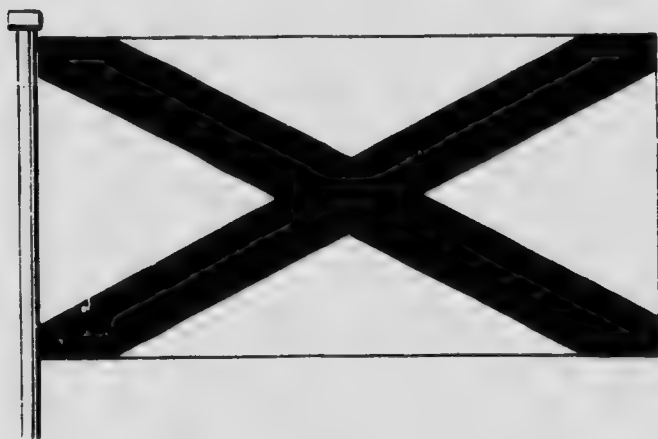
SCOTTISH FLAG. ST. ANDREW'S CROSS.

was then added, leaving a white fimbriation or border to mark the original white field of the English flag.



UNION JACK, FROM 1707 TO 1801, A.D.

WHEN the union of Ireland took place in 1801 the Irish flag, consisting of a diagonal red cross, *St. Patrick*, on a white field, thus :—



FLAG OF IRELAND (ST. PATRICK'S CROSS) AS ABOVE

was added to and blended with the other crosses, leaving the body of the union flag blue as the field of the Cross of St. Andrew, the formation thus being the beautiful combination loved and revered by all British subjects and handed down to the present generation as the *Union Jack*.



UNION JACK AS IT IS TODAY

THE Union Jack is the main feature not only of the Canadian flag, but of the flag of every unit in the British Empire. Its construction is explained to a nicety by Mr. Barlow Cumberland in his book above referred to.

THERE are two origins given for the name Union Jack: one being "Jacques," the French name of King James I, signifying the union between England and Scotland; and the other being that the flag was originally flown on the "jack" mast or part of the bowsprit of a vessel.

() NE particular feature of the Union Jack is that when properly hoisted the broad white stripe of the Cross of St. Andrew appears uppermost in the quarters next the staff, and beneath in the quarters farthest from the staff; whereas the red cross of St. Patrick, with the narrow white fimbriation, is uppermost on the quarters away from the staff and beneath on the quarters next to the staff, exactly reverse, displaying symmetry, beauty, and historical order.

A FLAG flying upside down is a sign of distress. Care should be exercised to see that the flag is right at all other times.

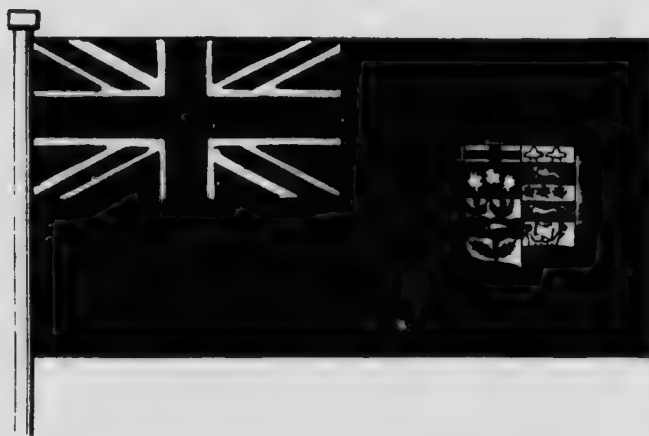
MAJOR W. J. Wright, of Brockville, Ontario, has drawn attention to the improper flying of flags, and points out that the flagstaff should be surmounted only by a small circular cap, flat on the under side, called the truck, and that there should be two holes in the truck for the cord to run in or a suitable block, and that the flag should be *run right up to the masthead*. The fashion of putting a gilt ball or sphere on a slender stem above the truck is to be deprecated, as it often gives the flag the appearance of being at half-mast.

AS is well known, a flag is placed at half-mast as a sign of mourning for some public or important personage. The origin of this custom is a beautiful one, and can be thus described: When a nation was conquered, its flag was lowered on the staff to make room for the flag of the conquering nation, which

was placed above it. When the death of a prominent person occurred, the flag was lowered to make room for the conqueror—death. It is not necessary therefore, when placing a flag at half-mast, to lower it more than sufficient to allow space above it for another flag of the same size.

NOR is it a compliment to a nation to place the flag of another nation above it on the same staff.

A FLAG to have a good appearance should be in proportion to the height of the staff. Nothing is more unsightly in this respect than a very small flag on a very large staff.



RED ENSIGN, ADOPTED AS THE CITIZEN'S FLAG OF CANADA

The above Flag as referred to by F. C. WADE, K.C.,
in his booklet, "The Canadian Flag."

SOME exception has been taken to the emblem of the Arms of Canada on our flag, as, while being a significant emblem, it is not easily distinguishable at sea, and it is difficult to have the emblem, with its many intricate parts, sewn into the bunting which forms the field of the flag.

IT was suggested at the time of the Diamond Jubilee of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, that the Canadian emblem be a *Maple Leaf* on a white diamond background, but the suggestion is herein made that a simple *Maple Leaf* in a suitable color would be more easily distinguishable and an even more appropriate emblem.

AS Mr. Barlow Cumberland has said : " It is found in luxuriance in every Province of the Dominion. It flourishes in the Maritime Provinces and in Quebec. It is the finest forest tree in Ontario. Manitoba Maples form the foliage of the North-West, and anyone who has seen the giant maple leaves of British Columbia will say the maple leaf is the natural emblem of Canada. It was held in high esteem by the early settlers of Quebec, and was adopted in 1836 as the French Canadian Emblem for the Festival of St. Jean Baptiste. At the creation of the union in Confederation, it was placed in the Arms of Quebec and Ontario, and was heraldically recognized as the Emblem of Canada. It has been worn on the breasts of all the representative champions of Canada, at the oar, on the yachts, on the athletic fields, and at the rifle ranges. It is on the uniforms and accoutrements of the Canadian Militia, of Mounted Police and all official services."

[T is hard, therefore, to conceive of a more suitable design than the Maple Leaf, as it is recognized throughout the whole Dominion as the Emblem of Canada, and has been immortalized in the words of our popular national song by the late Alexander Muir, "The Maple Leaf Forever."

" In days of yore, from Britain's shore,
Wolfe, the dauntless hero, came,
And planted firm Britannia's flag
On Canada's fair domain ;
Here may it wave, our boast, our pride,
And joined in love together
The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose, entwine
The Maple Leaf forever."

" On merry England's far-famed land,
May kind Heaven sweetly smile ;
God bless old Scotland evermore,
And Ireland's Emerald Isle !
Then swell the song, both loud and long,
Till rocks and forest quiver,
God save our King, and Heaven bless
The Maple Leaf forever."



THE RED ENSIGN, WITH THE MAPLE LEAF, SUGGESTED AS THE
CITIZENS' FLAG OF CANADA

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King:
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour:
Long may he reign:
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

*—Dr. John Bull, Chamber Musician
James I., A.D. 1606.*

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